

Report title: Annual Report of the Audit Governance and Standards Committee	
Report to: Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	
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Date: 16 November 2020	For: Approval
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County Divisions affected: All Essex	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report asks the Audit Governance and Standards committee to review and approve the Annual Report of the Audit Governance and Standards Committee, attached at appendix 1, prior to it being presented to Full Council in December 2020.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Audit Governance and Standards Committee review and approve the Annual Report of the Audit Governance and Standards Committee, prior to it being presented to Full Council in December 2020.

3. Background

- 3.1 As part of the review of its effectiveness the Audit Governance and Standards Committee agreed to produce an annual report to be presented to Full Council outlining its purpose, role and the activities that it has undertaken throughout the preceding financial year.
- 3.3 CIPFA's Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police states that Committees should 'report regularly on its work to those charged with governance, and at least annually report an assessment of their performance. An annual public report should demonstrate how the committee has discharged its responsibilities'.

4. Summary

- 4.1 The report will provide Full Council with the following:
- Committee Membership
 - Terms of Reference and Purpose of the Committee
 - Details of the Committee's work during the financial year 2019/20
 - Outcome of the Effectiveness Review

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Audit Governance and Standards Committee is a key way in which the Council provides assurance that it is providing value for money and has proper systems of control. Without effective assurance Councillors will not know that the Council is effectively carrying out its statutory duties. Whilst the production of an annual report is not a legal requirement it is considered best practice and provides assurance that the Committee is fulfilling its function effectively.

7. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 7.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 creates the public sector equality duty which requires that when ECC makes decisions it must have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act
 - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
 - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 7.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation. Equality and diversity matters have been considered in the production of the progress report.

8. List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Annual Report of the Audit Governance and Standards Committee

9. List of Background Papers

- CIPFA's Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police